

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11164 200326Z
ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, ECON-, EG
SUBJ: FURTHER PRESS COMMENT ON REPORTED KAISOUNI RESIGNA-
- TION

REF: CAIRO 10967

1. LEFTIST PRESS HAS JOINED RIGHT (SEE REFTTEL) IN
NOTING KAISOUNI RESIGNAION. WEEKLY EL AHALY, OFFICIAL
ORGAN OF LEFTIST NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE GROUPING PARTY,
APRIL 19 PUBLISHED ARTICLE TO EFFECT THAT CABINET RE-
SHUFFLE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE SOON AFTER KAISOUNI
RESIGNATIZN, WHICH IS TREATED BY EL AHALY AS ACCOMPLISHM
FACT. STORY REMARKS HIS AND ECONOMIC GROUP'S DISPUTE WWH
REST OF CABINET OVER DECISIONS INVOLVING FINANCIAL
QUESTIONS TAKEN WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OR KNOWLEDGE OF
MINISTER OF FINANCE. ACCORDING ARTICLE, KAISOUNI'S
POLICIES HAVE BEEN TARGET OF CRITICISM WITHIN CABINET
AND "HIGHEST LEVEL" OF GOVERNMENT. KAISOUNI IS SAID TO
HAVE LEFT ECONOMIC SCENE TEN DAYS AGO, CANCELLING ALL
ENGAGEMENTS SFD REFRAINING FROM DEALING WITH OFFICIAL
BUSINESS. "OBSERVERS" BELIEVE THAT KAISOUNI RESIGNATION
WILL OCCUION WIDER CABINET RESHUFFLE, ACCORDING PRESS
ITEM.

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2. EL AHALY ARTICLE NOTES SPECULATION THAT DR. ALI EL
GRETLI (OF ARAB AFRICAN BANK) IS POSSIBLE CANDIDATE TO
REPLACE KAISOUNI. DK. AHMED KAMAL EL GANZOURI, DIRECTOR
OF PLANNING INSTITUTE, IS LISTED AS CANDIDATE FOR
PLANNING PORTFOLIO.
3. COMMENT: KAISOUNI RESIGNATION, WHICH TO BEST OF
OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED, IS COMMON SUBJBFT OF

TALK AROUND TOWN. SPECULATIVE DISCUSSION ON THIS POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE SITUATION THUS FAR HAS BEEN SHORT ON POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS FOR HIM OR OTHER MEMBERS OF CABINET WHO MIGHT LEAVE IN RESHUFFLE OF POSTS. SURFACING OF DR. EL GRETLI'S NAME IS PERHAPS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED; FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY, HE IS A FORMER DEPUTY MINECON AND ONE OF FEW SENIOR EGYPTIAN FINANCIAL FIGURES WHO COULD BE EXPECTED, IN TIME, TO FILL KAISSOUNI'S SHOES IN ALL-IMPORTANT DEALINGS IN FOREIGN BANKING CIRCLES AND DONOR NATIONS. WHETHER HE WOULD ACCEPT POSITION IS ANOTHER QUESTION. DR. EL GANZOURI, RECENTLY APPOINTED AS HEAD OF LONG-MORIBUND PLANNING INSTITUTE, HAS GOOD REPUTATION AND WOULD LIKELY BE SUITABLE CHOICE FOR THAT MINISTERIAL JOB. EILTS

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